



WAYNE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES
ENGINEERING DIVISION

EDWARD H. McNAMARA
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

G.E. SIEMERT, P.E.
DIRECTOR AND COUNTY HIGHWAY ENGINEER
(313) 224-7758

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



530263

September 13, 1990

Mr. Ken Markey
K & D Environmental Services, Inc.
6470 Beverly Plaza
Romulus, MI 48174

Dear Mr. Markey:

I have been assigned responsibility for complying with all EPA requirements initiated by the acid spill last month at 15495 Sheldon Road, Northville Township, Michigan; the cleanup in which your company was involved. Your company's approach has me somewhat confused. Please respond in writing to the following questions:

1. Why was potash used to neutralize the sulphuric acid?
2. What method or calculation did you utilize to determine the amount of potash used?
3. Do you consider the cleanup of the potash/acid materials to be complete? If not, what is the status of the cleanup?

The analysis of unknown chemicals is underway. These materials have been identified as boiler treatment substances, and exact composition has not yet been determined. Please send as soon as possible a copy of the MSDS for the potash that you utilized.

Sincerely,

Mark L. Manor, CHMM
Hazardous Materials Manager

cc: Tom Wikle
Robert Biga
~~Ralph Dollhopf~~
Tom Schmelzer
John Kamphius
Hank Maciejewski

MM/jk
0053mm

415 CLIFFORD
DETROIT, MI 48226
(313) 224-7600



K & D INDUSTRIAL SERVICES, INC.

6470 BEVERLY PLAZA
ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174
(313) 729-3350

E.6
9.19.90

September 19, 1990

Mr. Mark L. Manor
Wayne County Department
of Public Services
Hazardous Materials Division
415 Clifford Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Dear Sir,

In response to your letter dated September 13, 1990, I am pleased to address the following questions.

1. Why was potash used to neutralize the sulfuric acid?

As I stated to you in a previous telephone conversation, K & D did not use potash to neutralize the sulfuric acid. We did in fact use soda ash. The reason soda ash was used is that we were originally called for emergency response service and since we keep a supply of soda ash in our inventory, and at the time we were not exactly sure of the amounts or types of caustics and acids involved, we chose to utilize soda ash for our initial response, as soda ash is an accepted method for acid neutralization.

2. What method or calculation did you utilize to determine the amount of potash used?

The amount of soda ash used was determined by the amount of reactivity when it was applied. When soda ash is applied to acid there is an immediate bubbling reaction. We continue to mix in soda ash until the acid stops reacting and the material can safely be handled.

3. Do you consider the clean up of the potash/acid materials to be complete? If not, what is the status of the clean up?

I consider the initial response to be completed. However, I do not consider the total clean up to be completed as you instructed me in a recent telephone conversation not to do anything further unless instructed by you.

What we had started doing was drumming up and grouping all like materials. We then obtained samples of the materials for analysis. At this stage some Wayne County workers arrived on site and removed some drums and samples, which we had gathered, and transported them off site. It was after this incident that we talked and you stated that you were having the analysis performed and that we should not do any further activity until you directed us to do so.

I still have several samples in my possession, which I will be returning to the site by 9/28/90, unless you direct us otherwise.

We will be happy to continue our services at your request.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to call.

Respectfully,



Ken Markey

KM/hrw

